WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for audibly identifying an event, the method comprising: enabling selection of a first sound based upon an identifier, the identifier enabling identification of an entity related to the event;

receiving a notification of an occurrence of the event, the notification including the identifier; and

alerting an intended recipient of the event by playing, in response to the notification, at least a portion of the first sound and at least a portion of a second sound that is related to the event.

- 2. The method of claim 1, wherein enabling selection of a first sound based upon an identifier comprises enabling selection of a first sound based upon a phone number of a caller, receiving the notification comprises receiving notification of a telephone call, and alerting an intended recipient of the telephone call comprises playing a ring tone including at least a portion of the first sound and at least a portion of the second sound..
- 3. The method of claim 2, wherein the first sound is a generic ring tone and the second sound is a ring tone specified by the caller.
- 4. The method of claim 3, wherein the generic ring tone is concatenated with the caller-specified ring tone.
- 5. The method of claim 1, wherein enabling selection of a first sound based upon an identifier comprises enabling selection of a first sound based upon an identity of an instant message sender and receiving the notification comprises receiving notification of receipt of an instant message.
- 6. The method of claim 1, wherein enabling selection of a first sound based upon an identifier comprises enabling selection of a first sound based upon an identity of an

instant message sender and receiving the notification comprises receiving a notification of a change in an online presence state of the instant messaging sender.

- 7. The method of claim 1, wherein enabling selection of a first sound based upon an identifier comprises enabling selection of a first sound based upon an identity of an email sender and receiving the notification comprises receiving notification of receipt of an e-mail message.
- 8. The method of claim 1, wherein enabling selection of the first sound comprises enabling selection of the first sound by the recipient.
- 9. The method of claim 1, wherein enabling selection of the first sound comprises enabling selection of the first sound by the sender.
- 10. The method of claim 1, wherein alerting an intended recipient of the event comprises alerting an intended recipient of the event by playing, in response to the notification, at least a portion of the first sound and at least a portion of the second sound, wherein the second sound is specified by the recipient.
- 11. The method of claim 1, wherein alerting an intended recipient of the event comprises alerting an intended recipient of the event by playing, in response to the notification, at least a portion of the first sound and at least a portion of the second sound, wherein the second sound is specified by the sender.
- 12. The method of claim 1, wherein alerting an intended recipient of the event comprises alerting an intended recipient of the event by concatenating a portion of the first sound with a portion of the second sound to form a concatenated sound and playing the concatenated sound.
- 13. The method of claim 1, wherein alerting an intended recipient of the event comprises alerting an intended recipient of the event by blending at least a portion of the

first sound and at least a portion of the second sound to form a blended sound and playing the blended sound.

- 14. The method of claim 1, wherein the first or second sound is a sound that is chosen to identify the entity or the event.
- 15. The method of claim 14, wherein the entity is a user and the first or second sound is a spoken version of a user identity corresponding to the user.
- 16. The method of claim 1, wherein the first or second sound is chosen to classify the entity or the event.
- 17. The method of claim 16, wherein the first or second sound identifies the geographic location where the event occurred.
- 18. The method of claim 16, wherein the entity is a user and the first or second sound identifies a group to which the user belongs.
- 19. The method of claim 18, wherein the first or second sound identifies that the user is a member of a buddy group of the recipient.
- 20. The method of claim 18, wherein the first or second sound identifies that the user is a member of a contacts list of the recipient.
- 21. The method of claim 16, wherein the first or second sound identifies the urgency or importance of the event.
- 22. The method of claim 16, wherein the entity is a user, the event is the recipient receiving a digital communication from the user, and the first or second sound identifies the type of digital communication received from the user.

- 23. The method of claim 1, wherein alerting an intended recipient of the event comprises alerting an intended recipient of the event by playing at least a portion of the first sound, at least a portion of the second sound, and at least a portion of a third sound.
- 24. The method of claim 23, wherein the first sound is a sound chosen to identify the entity or event, the second sound is a sound chosen to classify the entity or event, and the third sound is a sound chosen to further classify the entity or event.
- 25. The method of claim 23, wherein the first sound is a sound chosen to classify the entity or event, the second sound is a sound chosen to further classify the entity or event, and the third sound is a sound chosen to still further classify the entity or event.
- 26. A computer system for audibly identifying an event, the computer system comprising:

an event sound processor configured to

enable selection of a first sound based upon an identifier, the identifier enabling identification of a user related to the event;

an event detection processor configured to

receive a notification of an occurrence of the event, the notification including the identifier; and

an audio playback processor configured to

alert an intended recipient of the event by playing, in response to the notification, at least a portion of the first sound and at least a portion of a second sound that is related to the event.

27. The computer system of claim 26, wherein the event sound processor is configured to enable selection of a first sound based upon an identifier by enabling selection of a first sound based upon a phone number of a caller, to receive the notification by receiving notification of a telephone call, and to alert an intended recipient of the telephone call by playing a ring tone including at least a portion of the first sound and at least a portion of the second sound.

- 28. The computer system of claim 27, wherein the first sound is a generic ring tone and the second sound is a ring tone specified by the caller.
- 29. The computer system of claim 28, wherein the generic ring tone is concatenated with the caller-specified ring tone.
- 30. The computer system of claim 26, wherein the event sound processor is configured to enable selection of a first sound based upon an identifier by enabling selection of a first sound based upon an identity of an instant message sender and to receive the notification by receiving notification of receipt of an instant message.
- 31. The computer system of claim 26, wherein the event sound processor is configured to enable selection of a first sound based upon an identifier by enabling selection of a first sound based upon an identity of an instant message sender and receive the notification by receiving a notification of a change in an online presence state of the instant messaging sender.
- 32. The computer system of claim 26, wherein the event sound processor is configured to enable selection of a first sound based upon an identifier by enabling selection of a first sound based upon an identity of an e-mail sender and receive the notification by receiving notification of receipt of an e-mail message.
- 33. The computer system of claim 26, wherein the event sound processor is configured to enable selection of the first sound by enabling selection of the first sound by the recipient.
- 34. The computer system of claim 26, wherein the event sound processor is configured to enable selection of the first sound by enabling selection of the first sound by the sender.

- 35. The computer system of claim 26, wherein the audio playback processor is configured to alert an intended recipient of the event by playing, in response to the notification, at least a portion of the first sound and at least a portion of the second sound, wherein the second sound is specified by the recipient.
- 36. The computer system of claim 26, wherein the audio playback processor is configured to alert an intended recipient of the event by playing, in response to the notification, at least a portion of the first sound and at least a portion of the second sound, wherein the second sound is specified by the sender.
- 37. The computer system of claim 26, wherein the audio playback processor is configured to alert an intended recipient of the event by concatenating a portion of the first sound with a portion of the second sound to form a concatenated sound and playing the concatenated sound.
- 38. The computer system of claim 26, wherein the audio playback processor is configured to alert an intended recipient of the event by blending at least a portion of the first sound and at least a portion of the second sound to form a blended sound and playing the blended sound.
- 39. The computer system of claim 26, wherein the first or second sound is a sound that is chosen to identify the entity or the event.
- 40. The computer system of claim 39, wherein the entity is a user and the first or second sound is a spoken version of a user identity corresponding to the user.
- 41. The computer system of claim 26, wherein the first or second sound is chosen to classify the entity or the event.
- 42. The computer system of claim 41, wherein the first or second sound identifies the geographic location where the event occurred.

- 43. The computer system of claim 41, wherein the entity is a user and the first or second sound identifies a group to which the user belongs.
- 44. The computer system of claim 43, wherein the first or second sound identifies that the user is a member of a buddy group of the recipient.
- 45. The computer system of claim 43, wherein the first or second sound identifies that the user is a member of a contacts list of the recipient.
- 46. The computer system of claim 41, wherein the first or second sound identifies the urgency or importance of the event.
- 47. The computer system of claim 41, wherein the entity is a user, the event is the recipient receiving a digital communication from the user, and the first or second sound identifies the type of digital communication received from the user.
- 48. The computer system of claim 26, wherein the audio playback processor is configured to alert an intended recipient of the event by playing at least a portion of the first sound, at least a portion of the second sound, and at least a portion of a third sound.
- 49. The computer system of claim 48, wherein the first sound is a sound chosen to identify the entity or event, the second sound is a sound chosen to classify the entity or event, and the third sound is a sound chosen to further classify the entity or event.
- 50. The computer system of claim 48, wherein the first sound is a sound chosen to classify the entity or event, the second sound is a sound chosen to further classify the entity or event, and the third sound is a sound chosen to still further classify the entity or event.
 - 51. An apparatus for audibly identifying an event, the apparatus comprising:

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means for enabling selection of a first sound based upon an identifier, the identifier enabling identification of an entity user related to the event;

means for receiving a notification of an occurrence of the event, the notification including the identifier; and

means for alerting an intended recipient of the event by playing, in response to the notification, at least a portion of the first sound and at least a portion of a second sound that is related to the event.